

happen to agree in this specific case. But try to square that with their rhetoric in which they are talking about activist judges and unelected officials.

What they are implicitly acknowledging here is that there are times when they very much want unelected and lifetime-appointed judges to overturn what local officials did, because the case here of eminent domain is a case not of the Supreme Court taking anything aggressive. As I said before, the Supreme Court does not use eminent domain. That building across the street has not gotten one inch bigger since I got here. What the Supreme Court did was to allow the local officials' decision to stand. That is the kind of lack of activism that my Republican colleagues deplore.

#### REPUBLICAN POLICIES PROVIDE ECONOMIC SUCCESS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in October, our office attended numerous ribbon-cutting ceremonies at new businesses in the second district of South Carolina. These exciting events demonstrate economic growth in our community.

President Bush and House Republicans are dedicated to decreasing taxes and eliminating government regulations, and we continue to witness positive results from these economic policies. Last Friday, the Commerce Department reported that the economy grew 3.8 percent in the third quarter, exceeding analysts' expectations. Americans entrepreneurs have created more than 4.2 million new jobs over the last 28 months. Homeownership is the highest level in history. Today's unemployment rate is 5.1 percent, which is lower than the average rate of the last 3 decades.

As American families continue to profit from the Bush tax cuts, I am confident the economy will grow larger and new small businesses will continue to pop up in communities throughout our country.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### NEED FOR INTELLIGENCE ANSWERS IN LIGHT OF LAST WEEK'S INDICTMENT

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know if the Bush administration hyped faulty intelligence to win approval to go to war in Iraq. This Republican-led House refuses to even explore these issues. At least the Senate conducted an investigation last year. It concluded the intelligence was suspicious and outdated. The second part of that investigation

was supposed to examine why this faulty intelligence was presented to the world as a slam-dunk.

It has now been exactly 1 year since the investigation was scheduled to begin, and the Senate Republicans have refused to move forward. What are they afraid of?

Fed up with Republican stall tactics, the Senate minority leader, HARRY REID, moved for the Senate to go into a rare closed-door session to demand the investigation proceed. Thanks to Nevada's Senator HARRY REID, the Senate Republicans were shamed into restarting this investigation. Let us hope it now moves forward so the American people can finally determine if the Bush administration knowingly misled this country into war.

Mr. Speaker, the indictment of Scooter Libby shows that the Bush administration was willing to go to any length possible to silence its critics and cover up the intelligence that contradicted its claims for the war in Iraq.

#### CHECK ON SUPREME COURT DECISION

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson said that "the true foundation of republican government is the equal right of every citizen in his person and property," and the fifth amendment to the Constitution states "nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

Thanks to a recent Supreme Court ruling on eminent domain, the fifth amendment has been vastly expanded so that it now means "for the bottom line." Public use has been redefined to say simply that tax revenues are more important than neighborhoods.

The Founding Fathers did not mean "public use" to be defined as potential future economic development to increase tax revenues. Private property rights of our citizens are now competing with tax revenue and private developments. The Constitution is meant to protect the rights of our citizens, not compete with the bottom line, and certainly not to provide the government with an excuse to seize our property.

Our system only works with appropriate checks and balances, and this week Congress should exercise its check on a wayward Supreme Court decision and pass legislation that will demonstrate that increasing tax revenues should not trample the rights of private property owners.

#### THE VOLCKER COMMITTEE REPORT

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the recent release of a report from the Independent Inquiry Committee into the U.N. Oil-for-Food Program, also known as the Volcker Committee, has once again brought the issue of U.N. mismanagement to the forefront.

According to the Volcker Committee, \$1.8 billion in kickbacks and illicit surcharges were paid to Saddam Hussein's government by nearly 2,200 different companies in widespread abuse of the Oil-for-Food Program. As we can see, the Oil-for-Food Program lacked proper accountability and oversight, and thus caused massive fraud and abuse.

Unfortunately, this lack of accountability and oversight is nothing new at the United Nations. As the largest U.N. donor, the U.S. has the responsibility to ensure that the dollars of the American taxpayers are not being wasted. Until such accounting reforms are made, no United States money should be sent to the U.N. Only after such reforms are enacted will the United Nations begin its return to relevancy.

#### PUSHING FOR SAFER CYCLING CONDITIONS IN MEMORY OF JEANNE MENARD

(Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the bicycling community in Greenville, South Carolina, and my own office had a tragic loss this week. Jeanne Menard was a bicyclist and an enthusiast in Greenville who was struck and killed by a car. Maybe it was the fact that the sun was low in the sky, maybe it was a dirty windshield, maybe it was inattention, maybe it was all of those things. In any event, somebody who had given her time very recently to distributing helmets to school children in one of our parks was killed in our town.

As a society, we want to promote a healthier lifestyle. We want people to ride bikes in order to relieve congestion on our streets, in order to make them healthier and just to have some fun.

The problem is that we are not all attentive to those bikes. In South Carolina, there were 21 bicyclists killed in 2004; so far this year, 10. Nationwide, 600 bicyclists have been killed yearly in crashes with automobiles.

I applaud groups like the League of American Bicyclists, the Palmetto Cycling Coalition, the Spartanburg Free-wheelers and the Greenville Spinners, of which Jeanne Menard was a part, in their efforts to promote bike safety; and I hope that all of us will take the opportunity to spread the word in our own districts.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule